



Montgomery County Council

For Immediate Release

September 20, 2005

Contact: Patrick Lacefield 240-777-7939 or Jean Arthur 240-777-7934

COUNCIL APPROVES MEASURE TO REQUIRE LEASHING OF DOGS IN PUBLIC

**N
E
W
S

R
E
L
E
A
S
E**

The Montgomery County Council today unanimously approved revisions to the County's animal control law designed to strengthen enforcement of County efforts to protect residents and animals from potentially dangerous dogs.

The measure requires that all dogs be leashed in public, the only exceptions being dogs in County-sponsored dog parks

http://www.mc-mncppc.org/parks/facilities/dog_park//dog_parks.shtm

and "qualified activities" such as hunting, chasing, obedience or agility training, herding, tracking, or search and rescue. Past County law allowed dogs to be unleashed if "under verbal command" of the dog owner.

"These changes protect people and other animals alike from aggressive, unleashed dogs," said Councilmember Phil Andrews, who chairs the Public Safety Committee. "The previous law, allowing for unleashed dogs under 'verbal command,' was vague and unenforceable."

The animal control revisions also provide for the microchipping of dangerous animals and those impounded as strays, allowing for easier identification of the owners of these animals.

#